**10z Drama- watch at least one piece of streamed theatre a week and answer a question B style question on it:**

Choose from:

* **National theatre** Thursdays 7pm (watch them for up to a week afterwards)

This Thursday 16th April- *Treasure Island* (look out for exaggerated ‘stock’ characters and the awesome set change)

Thursday 23rd April- *Twelfth Night* (From the trailer this looks like a modern interpretation that should be interesting. If you don’t know the plot look it up beforehand but it should be really funny if it is done well and the Malvolio character should be a tragic/ comic figure as he is so mistreated in the end)

* *Wise Children* by Directed by Emma Rice (Former director of Kneehigh and Artistic Director at The Globe) Look out for how the ensemble work together, the different ages of characters playing the twins and how they switch roles, use of live music and physical theatre)
* *Getting Better Slowly*- online. (Look out for audience direct address and physical theatre)
* **The Globe**- Hamlet for free (2018) (Look at how the actors work the audience and tell the story without lighting and other technical facilities)
* **Pilot Theatre** *Crongton Knights*- from April 22- theatre made especially for teenagers
* **BBC Iplayer Performance Live**- start with *Love* and *Hofesh Shechter*
* **Whatsonstage** Website has a number of plays. I’d recommend *Girls like that* by Evan Placey

**Exam based section B questions (In an exam you would spend about 40 minutes on this answer but for now spend one hour writing it after watching it making notes as you do)**

1. Evaluate the visual impact a live production has had on you as an audience member.

You must include examples from the live performance you have seen in your answer. At the start of your answer state the name, venue and date (month and year) of the live performance you have seen.

1. Evaluate the choices that the director has made to tell the story and connect with the audience.

3) Evaluate the acting skills evident in the portrayal of two or more of the characters. Why are these skills important in the context of the production?

**SAMPLE ANSWER:**

‘Crouch, Touch, Pause, Engage’, XXXX Theatre, Month Year

We went to see ‘Crouch, Touch, Pause, Engage’, a live production, and the visual techniques and staging were very unique and thought-provoking. The staging that was used was almost in the round, with the audience on three sides, and tiered seating.

The performers were very good at communicating to the audience and managed to stand at certain angles so that everybody could see and understand what was happening in the scene and there was a lot of direct audience address used with direct eye contact, so that, as an audience, we could feel engaged and as if we were part of the play too.

Multi-rolling was used all the way throughout the play, they showed that Gareth (the main character) was being played by someone else, by passing on a rugby ball to the new actor, so that we could tell that Gareth was the one whom was holding the rugby ball. It may have taken me a while to work out what they rugby ball signified (as it did for many others) however once I did everything became a lot clearer for me.

A very powerful point in the production for me was used with the aid of lighting – which was very effective. The scene was the moment before two people were commit suicide and before this moment, the lighting hadn’t changed, however just as the characters supposedly died, the lights dramatically all went off, and when they did come back on, the characters were gone – leaving us as an audience feeling rather confused and apprehensive as for what was to come next.

Not many props were used, however there were a few for comedy purposes and the outer-edge of the stage was lined with benches which were frequently used for different things, such as chairs, tables and beds – making it a minimalistic set.

At some points, the actors would not have a part in a certain scene, so they would sit at the side of the stage and look dis-engaged, however I think that it would have looked better and been more effective, if they had gone off-stage during these parts as they were going out of character and it looked un-professional. I also think that whilst some of the performers were talking, the others lacked reaction and looked more as if they were thinking about what they were doing next. They needed to use facial expressions more in response to the other performer’s comments or actions. However, when the performers were talking, they used big hand gestures and facial expressions so that we could see their state of mind and have a clear indication of how they felt. As the performance used multi-rolling, the girls had to perform as boys – sometimes, and this was indicated with a slight change of costume (usually a rugby t-shirt) and a deepening of the voice with a more ‘manly’ gestures and stance. This was done well, as an audience member I always knew when they were performing as a male.

Something that I think could have made the performance even more effective and interesting is if freeze frames and thought tracking was used, as the play is a very emotional and thought- centred one, so if we could have seen and heard how the characters were thinking and feeling at certain points then we could have gotten a better understanding of them and felt more sympathetic towards their situation.

Overall, they play was very different to anything I have ever seen, and I felt very involved as an audience member. The characters movement was defined and lighted was used very well at certain points.

***Please note- this is not a top mark answer as it is still not detailed/ specific enough and there are some missed opportunities for terminology. However, you could use this as a guide to get you started.***